Amendments to the claims,
Listing of all claims pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) In a database system, a method for providing a stored procedure as a Web service, the method comprising:

predefining a stored procedure to be invoked upon receiving a client request for a particular Web service;

receiving an incoming request from a particular client for the particular Web service at an HTTP server incorporated into the database system;

in response to the incoming request, identifying the stored procedure that is predefined for the particular Web service;

executing the identified stored procedure for generating a result set; and

returning the result set back to the particular client.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming request is received by an HTTP server that is built into a database engine of the database system.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1~~claim 2~~, further comprising:

upon receiving the incoming request, verifying that the request comprises a valid HTTP request for a Web service.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein client requests employ HTTP protocol.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein client requests further specify a selected one of XML, SOAP, WSDL, and raw format.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said returning step further comprises:

formatting the result set into a particular presentation format; and thereafter

returning the formatted result set back to the particular client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said executing step further comprises:

creating a temporary pseudo connection to a database engine of the database system; and

executing the stored procedure through said temporary pseudo connection.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming request comprises a URL.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the URL includes parameter information affecting how the identified stored procedure is executed.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure may include any valid SQL statement.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may invoke other stored procedures.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein execution of the identified stored procedure occurs asynchronously with respect to the incoming request.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure selects data from a database, and wherein the result set returned to the particular client comprises that data formatted in a manner suitable for return via HTTP protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the data is formatted for return as XML-formatted data.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the result set comprises a

plurality of database rows, and wherein the XML-formatted data comprises said plurality of database rows delimited with XML row tags.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may set HTTP header information that is returned to the particular client.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the incoming request is received via a selected one of HTTP, FTP, and telnet protocol.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the system first checks user authentication for the particular client before executing the identified stored procedure.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium having processor-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

A downloadable set of processor-executable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium for performing the method of claim 1.

21. (Currently amended) A database system providing stored procedures as Web services, the system comprising:

a database engine stored on a computer-readable medium, which when executed controls ~~controlling~~ a database that includes a stored procedure to be invoked upon receiving a request for a particular Web service;

a communications layer of the database system for receiving an incoming request from a particular client for the particular Web service;

an HTTP server incorporated into the database system for parsing and validating the incoming request;

a request layer of the database system for identifying the stored procedure corresponding to the particular Web service and executing the identified stored procedure for the particular Web service, for generating a result set; and

a presentation layer of the database system for returning the result set back to the particular client.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the HTTP server resides in an executable space that is shared with the database engine of the database system.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the HTTP server verifies that the incoming request comprises a valid HTTP request for a Web service.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein client requests employ HTTP protocol to communicate with the database system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein client requests further specify a selected one of XML, SOAP, WSDL, and raw format.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the presentation layer formats the result set into a particular presentation format before returning the result set to the particular client.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the request layer includes program logic for creating a temporary pseudo connection to the database engine of the database system, and for executing the stored procedure through the temporary pseudo connection.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the incoming request comprises a URL.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the URL includes parameter information affecting how the identified stored procedure is executed.

30. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure may include any valid SQL statement.

31. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may invoke other stored procedures.

32. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein execution of the identified stored procedure occurs asynchronously with respect to the incoming request.

33. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure selects data from the database, and wherein the result set returned to the particular client comprises that data formatted in a manner suitable for return via HTTP protocol.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the data is formatted for return as XML-formatted data.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the result set comprises a plurality of database rows selected from the database, and wherein the XML-formatted data comprises said plurality of database rows delimited with XML row tags.

36. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the identified stored procedure itself may set HTTP header information that is returned to the particular client.

37. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the incoming request is received via a selected one of HTTP, FTP, and telnet protocol.

38. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the system first checks user authentication for the particular client before executing the identified stored procedure.